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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan** has unveiled the **first of a kind Air Quality and Weather Forecast System, SAFAR** at **Chandni Chowk** in **New Delhi**. The giant true colour **LED display** will give real-time air quality index on **24×7 basis** with colour coding along with **72-hour** advance forecast.
- According to the **Public Affairs Index 2018**, **Kerala** is the best-governed **state in the country**, released by a **Bengaluru think-tank**, Public Affairs Centre.
 - As per the report, **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka** and **Gujarat** are among the top five states delivering good governance.
 - **Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha** ranked the **lowest on the index**, indicating higher social and economic inequalities.
 - Among smaller states – with the population less than two crore – **Himachal Pradesh** topped the list of states with good governance, followed by **Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura**.
- Union Environment Minister **Harsh Vardhan** unveiled a state-of-the-art **Air Quality and Weather Forecast System– ‘SAFAR’** (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) at **Chandni Chowk** in New Delhi. The Environment Ministry’s mission model project ‘SAFAR’ is being implemented in four cities of **India – Delhi, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad as an operational service**.
- The **28th** meeting of **GST Council** was held in **New Delhi**. It reduced tax rates on more than **50 items** and exempted **sanitary napkins, rakhis, stone, marble, wooden deities and Saal leaves from GST**. Finance Minister **Piyush Goyal** chaired the **28th GST Council meeting in New Delhi**.
- The Environment Ministry re-introduced the ‘**Medini Puraskar Yojna**’– a

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scheme that awards **Indian** authors for their original work in **Hindi on environment, pollution and climate change subjects.**

- **Objective:**
 - It aims to encourage **Hindi authors** to write on environmental topics.
- **Odisha** will be the host to the Odisha Triennial of International Art (OTIA), India's first private sector triennial, in **December-January** which will be a **40 day event.**
- The **first international festival of Mizoram 'Mizo Hnahthlak'** was organized **Dengthuama Hall in Aizawl, Mizoram.**
 - It saw huge participation from the **Mizo** tribal community living in different places and region.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- According to report of **Walk Free Foundation, the Global Slavery Index** estimates that **40.3 million** people worldwide were subjected to modern slavery in **2016.**

ECONOMY

- A new **Cruise Terminal** capable of handling **5000 tourists** will be set up at Ernakulum Wharf of Cochin Port by **February 2020. On 20th July 2018, Cochin Port Trust** issued work order to the contractor for starting the construction of the new **Cruise Terminal.**

SPORTS

- **India's Muhammad Anas Yahiya** broke his **own national record** to win the **400 metres race** at the **Cena Noveho Mesta nad Metuji** meet in **Czech Republic.**
 - The earlier national record of **45.31 seconds** was made by the sprinter during the **2018 Commonwealth Games at Gold Coast, Queensland.**
- **Indian** badminton player **Lakshaya Sen** bagged the **gold medal** after defeating **Indonesia's top-seeded Kunlavut Vitidsaran** in the final match of the **Badminton Asia Junior Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia.**